GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANAGA REJUVENATION
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1868
ANSWERED ON:10.12.2015
Water Conservation in Rural Areas
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Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANAGA REJUVENATION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the Government schemes to support and increase water conservation in rural areas along with the number of villages selected thereunder including achievements made in this regard, so far; and

(b) the measures taken to ensure involvement of Panchayati Raj Institutions and other local bodies in leading and participating in rural water conservation efforts?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION

(PROF. SANWAR LAL JAT)

(a) & (b) Several measures for conservation, development and improved management of water resources are undertaken by the respective State Governments which, inter-alia, include conservation of water resources in reservoirs, traditional water bodies, rain water harvesting and artificial recharge of ground water. Central Government provides technical and financial assistance to the State Governments in this regard through various schemes and programmes. Some of the initiatives are as follows:

â€¢ Central Ground Water Board (CGWB), under this Ministry has prepared a conceptual document entitled "Master Plan for Artificial Recharge to Ground Water in India" in the year 2013, which envisages construction of different types of Artificial Recharge and Rainwater Harvesting structures in the country to harness 85 Billion Cubic Meters (BCM) of water to augment ground water resources in rural and urban areas. The Master Plan has been circulated to all State Governments for implementation.

â€¢ As per Schedule-I of the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA), the Water conservation and water harvesting structures to augment ground water constitute a special focus for MGNREGA works and about 2/3rd of the expenditure is directly related to construction of water harvesting structures in rural areas.

â€¢ CGWB has organized Tier-II and Tier-III Trainings to build up the capacity of various stakeholders (including Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) for their involvement in water conservation efforts.

â€¢ Jal Kranti Abhiyan has been launched during the year 2015-16 in order to consolidate water conservation and management in the country through a holistic and integrated approach involving all stakeholders, making it a mass movement. The Objectives of Jal Krant iAbhiyan include strengthening grass root involvement of all stakeholders including Panchayati Raj Institutions and local bodies in the water security and development schemes (e.g. Participatory Irrigation Management (PIM).

? Under the Jal Gram Yojana component of Jal Kranti Abhiyan, two villages in each district preferably being a part of dark block or facing acute water scarcity, are to be selected as 'Jal Grams'. An integrated water security Plan, water conservation, water management and allied activities are envisaged for the villages to ensure optimum and sustainable use of water.

? Jal Gram Yojana also envisages formation of Village Level Committee in each Jal Gram to be headed by Gram Pradhan/Sarpanch of the Village and comprising of representatives from Panchayati Raj Institutions, WUAs, Village Water and Sanitation Committee etc. for Formulation, Implementation and Monitoring of Integrated Water Security Plan as well as Advocacy of Water Conservation in their respective villages.

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